

Dear Parents/Carers

Good afternoon everyone

I hope this finds you all well and healthy at this very challenging time for everyone.

I do want to express my thanks to you all for your support with remote learning at home and in school. I recognise that many of you will be doing this whilst also working from home and I know from my personal experience, home schooling can be a challenge!

### **Two launches for this next week**

Firstly, you will see that there is an Ebor wide poetry competition available for any child/family/Governor or staff member to send an entry. There are prizes available too. Please read the attached flier below for all the details. There is one entry per pupil or one per family and the email address [poetry@ebor.academy](mailto:poetry@ebor.academy) is the one to send your entries by 28th February (**not school!**) Make sure you add all your details if you send it from home or your child's account - name, age, school, category entered etc

I know some year groups are going to work on them in school as part of a poetry theme, they will let you know if so. For most, this is not the case as their themes are not revolving around poetry at present. Enjoy and have fun!

The second is a PE workout session from our own Mr Dyson (if Jo Wickes can do it why can't we?!) This is aiming to promote the importance of physical exercise on our mental wellbeing. As with all exercise programmes it is meant to be fun and please do carry out the exercises in a safe space and at your own level, looking after yourselves at the same time. Keep your eye out for the link next week in the children's classrooms and if Mr Dyson is feeling brave it might appear on our twitter feed! Please comment if you enjoy it.

### **Music notice from Tim Brooks at York Arts Education**

Many of the staff that Tim employs carry out peripatetic music sessions here at RWPA and they have a free offer for you if you are interested. A new weekly online musical session with Diane Martin - called *Musical Activities with Mrs. Martin* - Body percussion and Rhythmic Fun and Games.

These sessions will be for 30 minutes every THURSDAY 4.00 - 4.30 starting this coming Thursday (11th February) and are FREE. (sessions do not currently run in school holidays).

This information is also available on their [website](#) **Join on your computer or mobile** [Click here to join the meeting](#)

### **Parent and Carer Survey**

We have been back now for 5 weeks since the start of the term and I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the term so far and to gather your views about remote learning and how it has developed since last March. A link will be sent to parents and carers via a ParentHub Direct message for a questionnaire which we would really like you to complete.

### **Advice about remote learning**

As the weeks go by, it is possible that the children may lose a little enthusiasm. This is entirely natural and it may have started already! We are aware of this and we are happy to support you in any way we can. This is also why we have tweaked and added to practice across the school, so that there is invariably something new or different the following week.

Try to keep to a routine and a daily timetable. This will really help you and your child. Have plenty of breaks and if needed, stop completely for half an hour or go for a walk or exercise if you can. This will help restore focus.

Please do not worry if you do not get every piece of work done each day. We all understand and recognise how challenging this can be. Many of the teachers are also parents too and we do know what this is like. We are here to help as best we can.

However, it is good to keep at it and this is also a key skill that all children need to learn! Try to encourage your child to keep going and stay positive. If they are older, they should be able to work with a measure of independence and remember that this is your child's work. They would normally do this in school without you! Please encourage them to have a go first on their own as this is the usual expectation for most children in school.

Sometimes it is good to say "Work on this piece for another 15 minutes and then you can have a break" or "Stick at this and keep thinking hard" or "Let's look at this a different way", or perhaps "Let's come back to it fresh after a break". The list of these phrases is endless and I am sure you get the point.

Try to remember to keep the pupil's learning platform **a positive learning environment** and use the school admin email [admin.rws@ebor.academy](mailto:admin.rws@ebor.academy) if you wish to mention something more private or comment about something other than the pupil's learning. The google classroom is really for dialogue and learning between the class teacher and a child, rather like a child's book.

As always, thank you for your assistance, positive communication and I hope this communication has been useful and informative for you

Have a safe and restful weekend.

Chris Evans